

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 are amended. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 11-17, 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 has been amended to overcome the §112 rejection, and features of claim 2 indicated as not being disclosed by the prior art have been incorporated into claim 1. As such, all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action rejects claims 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the feature "the holding frame," recited in claim 3, lacks antecedent basis. Claim 3 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis to the holding frame feature.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,743 to Watanabe; claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe; and claims 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,483,548 to Coble. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the Office Action indicates that claims 2, 11-17, 19 and 20 contain allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action states that the prior art fails

to disclose the features including that the optical modulator is connected through a heat-conductive material to an optical component casing accommodating optical components disposed on an optical path from a light source to the optical modulator, at least a part of the optical component casing being made of a heat-conductive material, as claimed in claim 2.

As such, these features of claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1.

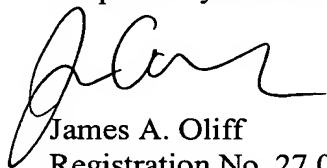
As such, claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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